

Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 16th September 2015

Function Room, Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Present: David Farrow, Julia Blunden, Glennys Jones (Chair), John Parker, Gordon Macmillan, Graham Ellis, Mal Faul, Ben Carr

Apologies David Leong, Peter Carter, David Hall, Ken Parker

Correspondence:

In

- Email from Sustainable Transport Officer Winchelle Chuson asking for assistance with audits of the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trails
- Email from Max Smith inviting us to the launch of the Boroondara community organising network of the Australian Conservation Foundation

Out

- Nil

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** David F sent a list of questions to Aidan McGann at VicRoads some of which related to this trail. Glennys J has mentioned the plan to sign a section of the trail to Sustainable Transport Officer Winchelle Huson. It was agreed to follow this up at the BAC meeting.
2. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** Those present at the Victorian BUGs meeting reported that Aidan McGann was reassuring about this, saying that Minister Donnellan is very committed to the project.
3. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Nil to report.
4. **North East Bicycle Corridor:** Aidan McGann was also encouraging about this project saying it is on VicRoads' radar. The possibility of seeking federal funding for it was raised.
5. **Stonnington Matters:** John P reported that Hornby St, which is a one-way road, has now been signed as counterflow for cyclists in line with the bicycle strategy. This provides an improved north-south route for cyclists through Stonnington, as an alternative to using Chapel St.
6. **Domestic Animals Management Plan:** Nil to report
7. **Outer Circle Trail at Harp Junction:** The final plan for the use of the VicRoads land is not yet available. VicRoads will not make changes to the intersection to improve it for cyclists using the Outer Circle Trail.
8. **Jacka Trail/North Balwyn Leisure Trail:** David F reported that the rebuilding of the sports centre continues but there was nothing to report on the trail.

9. **Proposed ramp from Mont Albert Rd to Anniversary Trail:** Glennys J reported that this came up on the recent bike path audit and that planning is in progress but government funding is needed. Glennys raised the issue of widening the footpath from the ramp to the school.
10. **Council's Bluestone Policy:** Glennys reported that the policy is due for review. Council is currently not consistently following its own policy and is creating safety issues, eg at Warburton Rd south of the rail line where a bluestone pram ramp has been constructed.
11. **Grade Separation: Opportunities:** Despite assurances from Aida McGann John P expressed reservations about VicRoads plans. He suggested that a letter be written to the grade separation authority. (John – have I got this right? Will you write the letter? What is the name of the authority? And is the letter to be a general one or about a specific grade separation?)
12. **Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy:** There have been no new developments with this since March. Glennys J mentioned the daily *Boroondara Bulletin* which is available online and which is a good way to find out about any new developments with such strategies. Glennys offered to forward a link to this to Julia B who will forward it to all our members.
13. **Rushall Reserve:** David H reported by email that City of Yarra officers are drawing up a proposal for a Shared Use Path through the reserve, close by the railway line.
14. **Review of Victorian Cycling Related Road Rules:** This subject came up at the recent Victorian BUGs meeting. Ed Hore of the Cycling Alliance put the view that we need a complete change of approach and that motorists should have to give way to cyclists in a number of situations where the reverse now applies, eg left turning motorists should give way to cyclists on their left proceeding straight ahead. Julia B reported that when asked for the name of a VicRoads contact for cycling matters Aidan McGann said that Pirakan Pirakalathanan is the best person to contact and that he can redirect queries/suggestions to the appropriate person.
15. **Draft Laneways Strategy:** Nil to report. It was agreed that this item be removed from future agendas.
16. **Chandler Hwy Bridge:** Clare Davey has put forward the BUG as a stakeholder in this project and provided Julia B's contact details.
17. **Tacks on Boulevard:** John P reported that this problem continues. A car crash occurred on the Kew Bvd recently and it will be interesting to learn if a flat tyre was involved.
18. **Victorian BUGs meeting:** Those members who attended this meeting agreed that it had been quite successful, and that Aidan McGann's presentation provided hope that VicRoads will be doing more to make roads safer for cyclists in future.
19. **Treasurer's Report:** Mal Faul reported that the \$200 donation to 3CR had been accepted but that his attempts to give \$200 to the Open Australia Foundation had so far been unsuccessful. The BUG currently has \$1,550 in its current account and \$3371.89 in a term deposit which was recently renewed for 6 months.

New Business

1. **BAC Meeting Friday 18th September:** It was agreed that John P and Julia B would be the BUG representatives and that Glennys J would attend as an observer.

Other Business

1. **Closing the Gap in the Anniversary Trail:** Graham E reported that he attended one of the community consultation meetings in the car park at Riversdale Park. He had spoken to the council officers present and got the impression that the car park would remain where it is. John P confirmed that this was also his impression. Graham also raised the need to sign the section of footpath in Prospect Hill Rd that will form part of the trail as a shared footway. It was pointed out that there are no such signs on the relevant sections of footpath in Riversdale Rd as yet and that dog-on-lead stencils are needed as well.
2. **Hawthorn Bridge Footpaths:** David F raised the issue of shared footway signs being needed on this bridge. Julia B agreed, but said that several years of lobbying for this failed for various reasons, one of which is the height of the railings.
3. **State Bike Budget:** John P stated that the state bike budget is not nearly large enough. BN has called for \$50M and in fact even more than this is needed. A new sustainable transport committee has been created by the state government. It was agreed that the BUG should write to both Minister Donnellan and this committee to support BN's call for better funding for cycling.
4. **Peter Campbell's Collision:** Glennys J raised the need to report Peter's recent collision on the Denham St roundabout near Summerhill Rd to council and outlined some of the problems at the Summerhill/Toorak Rd intersection that may have been contributing factors. It was agreed that this would be raised at the BAC meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th October

Notes by Julia Blunden